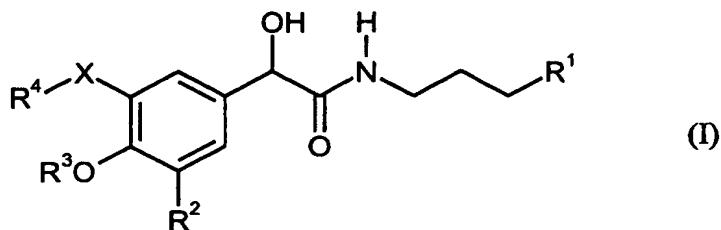


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A flavouring composition comprising a mandelic acid alkylamide of general formula (I)



wherein

$R^1$  represents a linear or branched alkyl residue with 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a linear or branched alkenyl residue with 2 to 20 carbon atoms and

$R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom,

and, either

$X$  represents a single bond,

$R^3$  a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue and

$R^4$  hydrogen,

or

$X$  represents an oxygen atom,

$R^3$  hydrogen, and

$R^4$  a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue,

or

$X$  represents an oxygen atom,

$R^3$  a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue, and

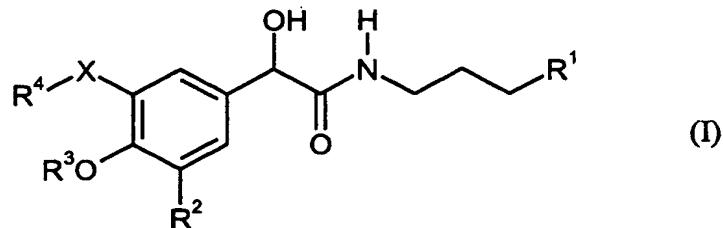
$R^4$  hydrogen,

and stereoisomers or mixtures thereof with the exception that of the mandelic acid alkylamide of general formula (I) where  $X$  represents an oxygen atom,  $R^1$  is 1-pentyl,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are hydrogen and  $R^4$  is methyl.

2. (Currently Amended) A flavouring composition comprising 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-heptylacetamide,

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-octylacetamide,  
2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-nonylacetamide,  
~~2-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-octylacetamide,~~  
2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-heptylacetamide,  
2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-octylacetamide,  
2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-nonylacetamide,  
2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-heptylacetamide,  
~~2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-octylacetamide,~~  
2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-nonylacetamide,  
and  
2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-(7-methyl-1-octyl)acetamide  
and stereoisomers or mixtures thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) A flavouring composition according to claim 1 exhibiting a pungent flavour or a flavour with a heat-generating effect.
4. (Previously Presented) A composition consumed for nutrition or pleasure comprising a flavouring composition according to claim 1.
5. (Previously Presented) An oral hygiene composition comprising a flavouring composition according to claim 1.
6. (Currently Amended) A composition for use in nutrition, oral hygiene or consumed for pleasure containing mandelic acid alkylamides of general formula (I)



wherein

$R^1$  represents a linear or branched alkyl residue with 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a linear or branched alkenyl residue with 2 to 20 carbon atoms and

$R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom,

and, either

$X$  represents a single bond,

$R^3$  a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue and

$R^4$  hydrogen,

or

$X$  represents an oxygen atom,

$R^3$  hydrogen, and

$R^4$  a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue,

or

$X$  represents an oxygen atom,

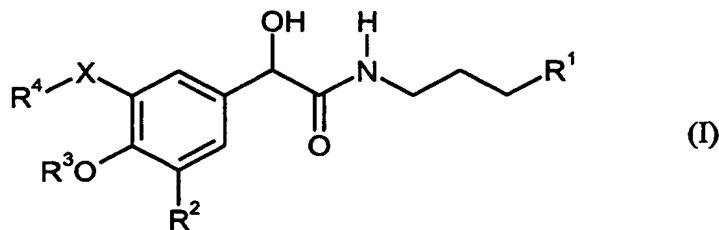
$R^3$  a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue, and

$R^4$  hydrogen,

and stereoisomers or mixtures thereof with the exception of the mandelic acid alkylamide of the general formula (I) where X represents an oxygen atom, R<sup>1</sup> is 1-pentyl, and R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are methyl.

7. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 6, containing at least one other pungent-tasting or heat-generating substance.
8. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 6, containing at least one pungent-tasting plant extract.
9. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 6, containing at least one other pungent-tasting or heat-generating substance and at least one pungent-tasting plant extract.
10. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 6 in the form of a semi-finished product.
11. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 6 in the form of odour, flavour and taste compositions and seasoning mixes.

12. (Currently Amended) Mandelic acid alkylamide flavouring compounds of general formula (I)



wherein

$R^1$  represents a linear or branched alkyl residue with 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a linear or branched alkenyl residue with 2 to 20 carbon atoms and

$R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom,  
and, either

$X$  represents a single bond,

$R^3$  a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue and

$R^4$  hydrogen,

or

$X$  represents an oxygen atom,

$R^3$  hydrogen, and

$R^4$  a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue,

or

$X$  represents an oxygen atom,

$R^3$  a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue, and

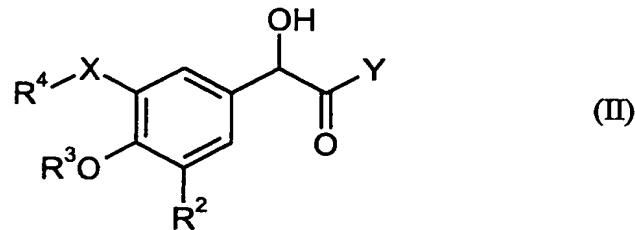
$R^4$  hydrogen,

and stereoisomers or mixtures thereof with the exception that of the mandelic acid alkylamide of general formula (I) where  $X$  represents an oxygen atom,  $R^1$  is 1-pentyl,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are hydrogen and  $R^4$  is methyl.

13. (Previously Presented) 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-heptylacetamide,  
2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-octylacetamide,

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-nonylacetamide,  
 2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-heptylacetamide,  
 2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-octylacetamide  
 2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-nonylacetamide,  
 2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-heptylacetamide,  
 2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-nonylacetamide,  
 and  
 2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-(7-methyl-1-octyl)acetamide.

14. (Previously Presented) A process for producing the flavouring compounds according to claim 12, characterised in that a mandelic acid of general formula II

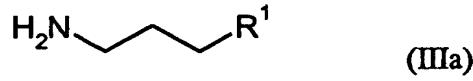


wherein

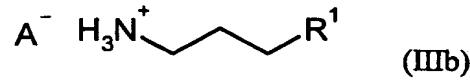
$\text{X}$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  have the meaning given in claim 12,  
 and

$\text{Y}$  represents an activated nucleofuge, or derivatives, the OH groups of which are protected with protective groups,

is reacted with an alkylamine of general formula (IIIa)



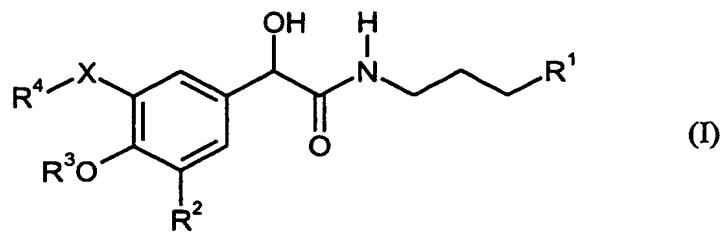
or an alkylammonium salt of general formula (IIIb)



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  has the meaning given above and  $\text{A}^-$  denotes an inorganic or organic anion.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) Cosmetic or dermatological compositions containing mandelic acid alkylamides of general formula (I)



wherein

$R^1$  represents a linear or branched alkyl residue with 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a linear or branched alkenyl residue with 2 to 20 carbon atoms and

$R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom,

and, either

$X$  represents a single bond,

$R^3$  a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue and

$R^4$  hydrogen,

or

$X$  represents an oxygen atom,

$R^3$  hydrogen, and

$R^4$  a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue,

or

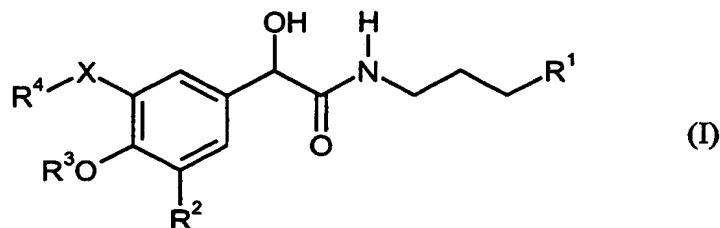
$X$  represents an oxygen atom,

$R^3$  a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue, and

$R^4$  hydrogen,

and stereoisomers or mixtures thereof with the exception of the mandelic acid alkylamide of the general formula (I) where X represents an oxygen atom,  $R^1$  is 1-pentyl, and  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are methyl.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of imparting a flavor to a composition comprising adding a flavoring compound to the composition in an amount effect to impart a flavor, said flavoring compound comprising a mandelic acid alkylamide of general formula (I)



wherein

X represents a single bond or an oxygen atom;

and

R<sup>1</sup> represents a linear or branched alkyl residue with 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a linear or branched alkenyl residue with 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

and

R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group or an O-R<sup>5</sup> group;

and

R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup>, independently of one another, represent hydrogen or a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue;

or

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> together represent a CR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup> group;

and R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup>, independently of one another, represent hydrogen or lower alkyl residues or lower alkenyl residues;

and stereoisomers or mixtures thereof.

R<sup>1</sup> represents a linear or branched alkyl residue with 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a linear or branched alkenyl residue with 2 to 20 carbon atoms and

R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom,

and, either

X represents a single bond,

R<sup>3</sup> a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue and

R<sup>4</sup> hydrogen,

or

X represents an oxygen atom,

R<sup>3</sup> hydrogen, and

R<sup>4</sup> a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue,

or

X represents an oxygen atom,

R<sup>3</sup> a lower alkyl residue or a lower alkenyl residue, and

R<sup>4</sup> hydrogen,

and stereoisomers or mixtures thereof with the exception of the mandelic acid alkylamide of general formula (I) where X represents an oxygen atom, R<sup>1</sup> is 1-pentyl, and R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are methyl.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the flavoring is at least one selected from the group consisting of

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-heptylacetamide,

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-octylacetamide,

2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-nonylacetamide,

~~2-(3,4 dihydroxyphenyl) 2 hydroxy N octylacetamide;~~

2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-heptylacetamide,

2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-octylacetamide,

2-(3-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-nonylacetamide,

2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-heptylacetamide,

~~2-(4 hydroxy 3 methoxyphenyl) 2 hydroxy N octylacetamide;~~

2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-nonylacetamide,

and

2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-(7-methyl-1-octyl)acetamide

and stereoisomers or mixtures thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the flavoring compound exhibits a pungent flavor or a flavor with a heat-generating effect.

Claim 20-23 (Cancelled)